

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9698

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AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, OCTOBER 6-7; COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8803

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER CONSIDERABLE DEBATE THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS, AT THEIR COUNCIL MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG ON OCTOBER 6, AGREED TO POSTPONE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN. IN ADDITION, THEY ISSUED A STATEMENT REFERRING TO THEIR DEMARCHES PRIOR TO THE RECENT EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN AND "NOTED WITH DEEP REGRET" THAT THEIR VIEWS WERE NOT LISTENED TO. BECAUSE OF DUTCH AND DANISH OBJECTIONS, NO COMMON COMMUNITY POSITION WAS REACHED REGARDING A COORDINATED RETURN OF EC MEMBER STATE AMBASSADORS TO MADRID. EC PERM DEL SOURCES INDICATE THAT A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATE AMBASSADORS WILL, NONETHELESS, RETURN TO MADRID IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. SUSPENDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN: AT THE EC FOREIGN
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MINISTERS COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG ON OCTOBER 6, THE

MINISTERS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. THIS DISCUSSION, WHICH SEVERAL PERM DEL SOURCES HAVE TERMED "HEATED", CENTERED ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COUNCIL SUSPEND EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN (SEE REFTEL). A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING FRANCE, IRELAND, BELGIUM AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, GERMANY AND ITALY, FELT THAT THE COMMISSION STATEMENT, COUPLED WITH THE PULLING OUT OF MOST EC MEMBER STATE AMBASSADORS, WAS A SUFFICIENT REACTION TO THE SITUATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DUTCH AND DANISH DELEGATION URGED THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT A STRONG STATEMENT REITERATING THE COMMUNITY'S CONCERN. AFTER NEARLY FOUR HOURS OF DEBATE THE COUNCIL MADE PUBLIC TWO STATEMENTS ON THE MATTER. THE FIRST, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS GIVEN BELOW, NOTES THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT, BASED ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, THE RECENT EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN AND CONCLUDES BY HOPING THAT A DEMOCRATIC SPAIN WILL BE ABLE TO FIND HER PLACE IN THE CONCERT OF EUROPEAN NATIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SPAIN, WHICH HAD STALLED PRIOR TO THE RECENT EXECUTIONS, THE COUNCIL CONFINED ITSELF TO A STATEMENT "AFFIRMING THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SPAIN CANNOT BE RESUMED."

3. THE RETURN OF EC AMBASSADORS TO MADRID: THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO REACH ANY COORDINATED POSITION ON THE TIMING OF THE RETURN OF EC MEMBER STATE AMBASSADORS TO MADRID DUE TO DUTCH AND DANISH OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER, PERM DEL SOURCES EXPECT THE FRENCH, BELGIAN AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS TO RETURN FAIRLY SOON WITH SOME ARRIVING POSSIBLY BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK AND WITH THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR NOT FAR BEHIND. THE DUTCH AND DANISH AMBASSADORS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MADRID FOR SOME TIME. SPEAKING WITH REPORTERS FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL SESSION, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAYING ONLY THAT HE AGREED FULLY WITH THE STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL. AN IRISH SOURCE, WITH HIS TONGUE FIRMLY IN HIS CHEEK, COMMENTED

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THAT THE IRISH AMBASSADOR LOOKED FORWARD TO WELCOMING HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE AIRPORT ON THEIR RETURN TO MADRID.

4. EC COUNCIL STATEMENT: AS NOTED PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON SPAIN WHICH WAS CONVEYED ORALLY TO THE PRESS. BEGIN TEXT (INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION): THE MINISTERS RECALL THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE COMMON HERITAGE OF THE PEOPLES

OF EUROPE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE MINISTERS HAVE REPEATED THAT THEY DEPLORE RECENT EXECUTIONS CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT OF PROCEDURES WHICH VIOLATED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RULE OF LAW AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, THE RIGHT TO DEFENSE.

5. THEY HAVE NOTED WITH DEEP REGRET THAT THE VARIOUS DEMARCHES BASED ON HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THEY MADE BOTH JOINTLY AND SEPARATELY HAVE NOT BEEN HEEDDED.

6. THEY ARDENTLY HOPE THAT SPAIN, TO WHOSE PEOPLE THEIR PEOPLE ARE LINKED BY SO MANY TIES, WILL BE SPARED AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE.

7. THEY HOPE FURTHER THAT A DEMOCRATIC SPAIN WILL FIND HER PLACE IN THE CONCERT OF EUROPEAN NATIONS. END TEXT. GREENWALD

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